

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-40 are pending in the subject application. Claims 9-18 and 27-35 have been withdrawn in connection with the election requirement mailed on December 28, 2005. Claims 1 and 19 are independent.

By the instant amendment, claims 1, 19, 22, and 30 are amended, and claims 21 and 29 are cancelled. Claim 1 is amended to correct a typographical error therein, claim 19 is amended to include limitations of claim 21, and claims 22 and 30 are amended for language informalities. No new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully request, in connection with the next Office action, the Examiner's acknowledgement and acceptance of applicants' verified English translation of the foreign priority document, filed on October 26, 2006.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final,

- (a) claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0060704 to Suzuki ("the Suzuki reference");
- (b) claims 1-8 and 36-40 were allowed; and
- (c) claims 21-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but they were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

B. Asserted Anticipation Rejection of Claims 19 and 20

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Suzuki reference. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 19 has been amended to include limitations of claim 21, indicated as including allowable subject matter by the Examiner in the Office action of April 29, 2008,

at page 2. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 19 is allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 19 and claims dependent thereon be favorably reconsidered and withdrawn.

C. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-8 and 36-40 and indication of allowable subject matter in claims 21-26. Applicants, however, respectfully submit that all claims are currently in condition for allowance.

D. Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 9-18 that depend, directly or indirectly, from allowed independent claim 1. Further, upon allowance of independent claim 19, applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn claims 27-35, which depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 19.

E. Entry of Amendment Requested

Applicants respectfully submit that by the instant amendment claims 1, 22, and 29 have been amended solely for language informalities, and claim 19 has been amended solely to include limitations of claim 21 indicated as allowable. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that consideration of these amendments does not impose an undue burden on the Examiner. Applicants further submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and that the instant amendment overcomes the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. Accordingly, entry of the above amendment after final is respectfully solicited.

F. Conclusion

The above remarks demonstrate the failings of the arguments in the Office action with respect to the outstanding rejection, and are sufficient to overcome them. However, these remarks are not intended to, nor need they, comprehensively address each and every reason for the patentability of the claimed subject matter over the applied prior art. Accordingly,

Applicants *do not* contend that the claims are patentable solely on the basis of the particular claim elements discussed above.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE & MORSE, P.C.

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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, Applicants hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.